

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 21, 2021
Zoom

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, R.P. Hale, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Catherine Sununu, Jason Tors, Cecilia Ulibarri, and Leah Woods

Arts Councilors Absent

Peter Warburton

Staff Present

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); Lisa Burk-McCoy, Creative Communities & Arts in Health Coordinator (CC/AH); Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

Staff Absent

Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO)

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of May 19, 2021 Council meeting
- Approve FY22 Arts in Health Project grant recommendations (\$59,540)
- Approve FY22 Youth Arts Project grant recommendations (\$59,415)
- Approve FY22 Public Value Partnership grant recommendations (\$315,800 to current grantees, and \$200,000 to new grantees)
- Approve FY22 Poetry Out Loud partnership grant (\$20,000)
- Approve FY22 Arts Education partnership initiative grant (\$20,000)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 9:32 AM on July 21, 2021.

II. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 19, 2021 meeting. Councilor R.P. Hale moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Cathy Sununu. The minutes from May 19, 2021 were unanimously approved, with one abstention (Councilor Leah Woods).

III. INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(HTA) Kayla Schweitzer led the Council in a Land Acknowledgement. All were encouraged to visit <https://native-land.ca/> for an interactive map and to learn more about the indigenous peoples that lived/live in New Hampshire. Councilor R.P. Hale, who is of Aztec descent, recited a very brief section of a poem by Nēzahualcōyotl, the poet-king who was an equal ally of the Aztec king in the 1450s.

IV. APPROVAL OF ALL GRANTS AS LISTED

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve all grants as listed under Arts in Health Project, Youth Arts Project, and Public Value Partnership. Motion made by Councilor Mary McLaughlin and seconded by Councilor Angela Brown.

- **FY22 ARTS IN HEALTH PROJECT GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS (\$59,540)**
A four-member panel met on July 8, 2021 to review the 12 applications received in this category. The panel recommended all 12 applications for funding. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the grant recommendations (IV). Motion made by Councilor Mary McLaughlin and seconded by Councilor Angela Brown. The Council unanimously approved.
- **FY22 YOUTH ARTS PROJECT GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS (\$59,415)**
A panel met on July 19, 2021 to review the 13 applications received in this category and recommended all 13 receive some funding. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the grant recommendations (IV). Motion made by Councilor Mary McLaughlin and seconded by Councilor Angela Brown. The Council unanimously approved.
- **FY22 PUBLIC VALUE PARTNERSHIP GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS (\$315,800 TO CURRENT GRANTEES, \$200,000 TO NEW GRANTEES)**
Director Lupi explained FY21 grants that received funding would be extended/continued with approval, as well as new applicants for FY22. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the grant recommendations (IV). Motion made by Councilor Mary McLaughlin and seconded by Councilor Angela Brown. The Council unanimously approved.
- **APPROVAL OF FY22 POETRY OUT LOUD PARTNERSHIP GRANT (\$20,000) & FY22 ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE GRANT (\$20,000)**
Director Lupi explained the Poetry Out Loud grant would go to a fiscal agent for allocation within that program, while the Arts Education grant would support pop-up Arts Education conferences/events across New Hampshire later this year. Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Poetry Out Loud Partnership Grant as well as the Arts Education Partnership Initiative Grant proposals. Motion made by Councilor Sara Germain and seconded by Councilor Cathy Sununu. The Council unanimously approved.

V. **DNCR COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Sarah Stewart reported that her daughters enjoyed attending Kimball Jenkins' Art Camp. She also recently attended the Edward MacDowell Medal Day, honoring recipient Rosanne Cash, the ceremony for which will be televised August 8, 2021. The Commissioner noted that last week, the department hosted the Governor and Executive Councilors at Cannon Mountain. Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney chose the location of Franconia Notch State Park to highlight the tram, which needs updates and investment. Members of the Weathervane Theatre performed selections from *Hello, Dolly!* Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington plans to host in Keene on August 4, 2021, with a breakfast at the Keene Public Library, followed by a sneak peek of the Colonial's new venue, Showroom. The first round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been allocated, with the state appropriating almost 23 million to State Parks, which will free up park revenue for more projects, though this is challenged by a lack of staff at the moment.

VI. **STAFF REPORT**

Director Lupi reported the following:

- The Arts Education position has been filled. Allison Hawkins, currently with the NH Women's Foundation, will start her new position in mid-August.
- Staff is working on a distribution plan for the \$758,900 the agency will receive in American Rescue Plan funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. Right now the focus is on supplemental grants for operating grantees.
- The agency also received notification of its next regular partnership grant from the Arts Endowment: \$770,592.00, which will support state FY22 activities. This grant is an increase of \$27,000 over last year.

- The recently enacted FY22-23 state budget includes language to create the “Save Our Granite Stages Fund” in the Arts Council’s budget. The language was sponsored by Senator Becky Whitley. There is no appropriation attached; the language allows for deposit into the Fund federal monies the state receives due to COVID-19 for grants to nonprofit and for-profit performing arts venues that didn’t receive federal Shuttered Venue Operators grants. The performing arts group has begun a letter-writing campaign to the Governor and Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee requesting that \$1 million of ARP funds be allocated. Director Lupi has been in communication with Rep. Ober and Senator Whitley this week about the Fund and is reaching out to the field to ascertain the size of the potential grant pool.
- Percent for Art Update: Responses to the RFP for the NH Army National Guard Pembroke Readiness Center is due August 20, 2021. There will be an on-site informational meeting and tour on Monday July 26, 2021, at 1:30 PM.
- Grant programs update:
 - 7 Arts Conservation (Mooseplates) applications in total; 1 not eligible
 - 8 Traditional Arts Apprenticeships applications
 - 6 Folklife & Traditional Arts Projects applications
 - 23 Arts for Community Engagement applications
 - The next Artist Entrepreneurial Grant deadline is August 4
- The Arts in Health Program is concluding a partnership project with the NH Veterans Home. Over the course of a month in late 2020, the Veterans Home lost 36 residents to COVID-19. The Arts Council offered this project as an opportunity to help residents and staff grieve and heal together through artmaking. Recreational therapy staff led workshops using magnetic designs called Fraglets, created by New Hampshire Arts in Health Roster artist Kathy Cadow-Parsonnet. Kathy reimagined these individual creations into six works of art which will be framed and hung at the Home in late July or early August.
- The Creative Communities Program is partnering with the State Library to support artist presentations in local libraries for StoryWalk this November. NHSCA curated a list of six NH artists who represent a diverse range of cultural perspectives. These artists will lead activities on the theme of storytelling or story-making for young children and their families.

VII. GOVERNOR’S ARTS AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilors Mary McLaughlin and Cathy Sununu are committee members, in addition to Chair Brooks. Chair Brooks underscored the goal of 100% participation for the Council and noted that he had heard from all but one Councilor. Councilor Sununu reported most sponsorship slots have been filled, and Jonathan Geddis has begun production of the awardees’ videos, which look very professional. Once the videos are finished, Trigger(House will begin developing the social media campaign for the event, which takes place on October 26, 2021. Councilor McLaughlin explained the goal of the Committee is to produce a show/event, rather than merely stream a ceremony.

VIII. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN

Chair Brooks asked each Councilor to tell the Council how they’ve been faring and to provide updates on what they have been doing. Councilors reported on a wide range of in-person and virtual arts activities.

IX. ADJOURN

Chair Brooks called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Councilor Tim Sink and seconded by Councilor R.P. Hale. Meeting adjourned with unanimous approval at 10:54 AM.

Remaining 2021 Council Meeting Dates (start time will be 9:30 AM, unless otherwise indicated): Wednesday, September 15, Wednesday, November 17 (locations TBA).